CatChanScans
becoming more and more elusive...
Remember,
support the mangaka,
buy your own copy!!
Do NOT share
outside of IRC
without permission.
[P.S. the only ones
who HAVE permission,
are the following:
Lurk, Evil Empire,
Esthetique and MLFS.]
To all those others,
shame shame!!

AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

4

SETONA MIZUSHIRO

NIGHTMARE

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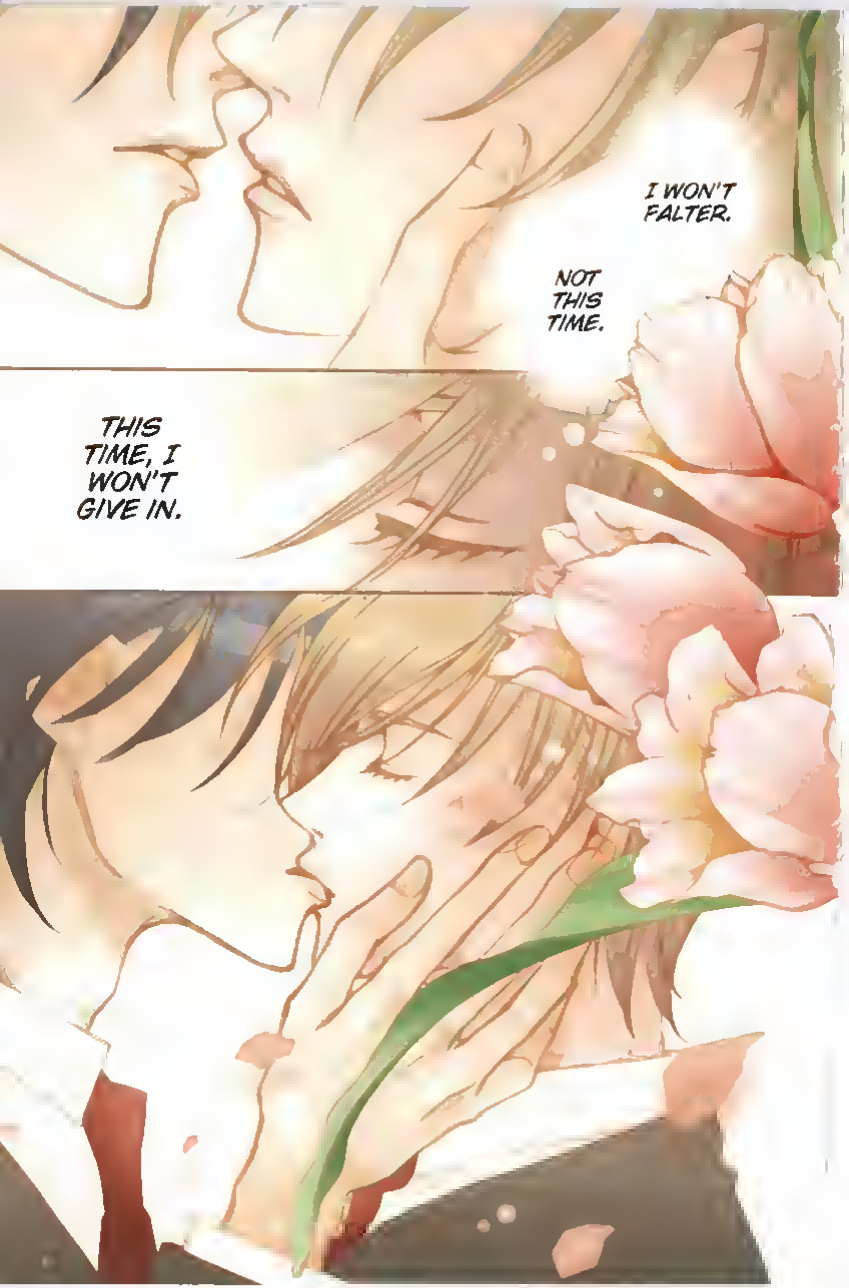


AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

Our Story So Far

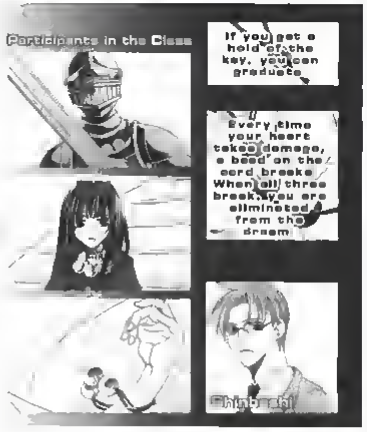
Moshiro Ichijo is o high schcol student whose body is half temole, ond holf mole. One doy, he's colled down to o secret infirmary to porticipote in o speciol "closs" he needs to groduote. He iearns from onother student, Kureho, that each person tokes on their true form in this cioss. When each person reaches their personoi goal, their most heart-felt dream wiii come true. Moshiro decides to use this class to become o true mole.

But, when onother dreomer – o merciless knight – exposes Mashiro's secret, and everyone witnesses Kureho's tragic past, Mashiro begins to hate these "closses" that so cruelly open the wounds in peopie's hearts, and vows that he'ii protect the weaker students, like Kureho.

Who is the real person behind the chorocter who expased his body's secret? He is trying to identify the other dreamers, when suddeniy o guy student he's never gotten olong with teiis him "You're o girll" ond forces o kiss on him! How does Sou know the secret behind Mashiro's body? Couid it be that Sou is onother dreomer?

The newest member of the "closs" is a giraffe who can see through everyone's dreom-formi The student behind the giraffe, Shinonome, suddeniy confronts Mashiro in schcol. He promises to identify the true person behind the knight – for a price. . But Mashiro decides to discover these secrets on his own.

Especially – who is the knight? Mashiro suspects Sou. He prepares to toce Sou straight on about it – not knowing thot Sou's kiss was witnessed by his friend, Shinbashi...


Participants in the Class
If you get a hold of the key, you can graduate
Every time your heart takes damage, a bead on the cord breaks. When all three break, you are eliminated from the dream
Shinbashi

WHAT?
PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT AFTER I KISS THEM.
.....
.....
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
.....

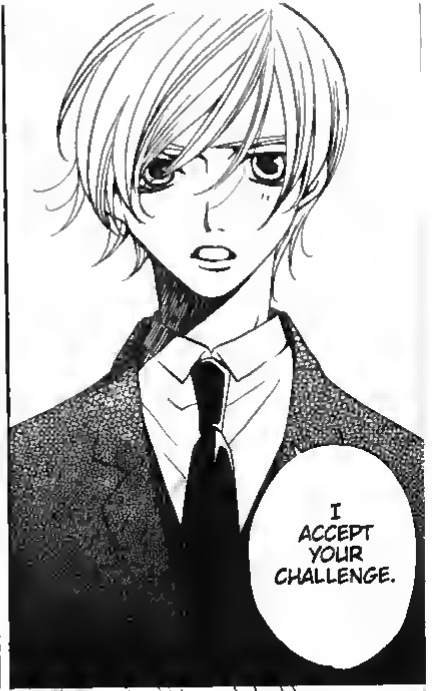
WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT...
...IT ONLY MAKES ME LIKE YOU MORE.

SO YOU'RE LIKE THAT. I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND.
...YEAH?
I SEE...

...JUST WHAT KIND OF GUY YOU ARE, SOU!
I'M GOING TO FIND OUT FOR SURE...
BLUSH

WHEN WE FACE OFF, I'LL STAND HERE AND DEAL WITH IT!
I WON'T SPAZ OUT AND RUN AWAY ANYMORE.
COME AGAIN?

OBVI-OUSLY!
IS THIS A FIGHT TO THE DEATH, OR SOME-THING?


I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE.

.....
.....
...GOING TO LOSE TO YOU, SOU!
AND I'M NOT...

.....
.....

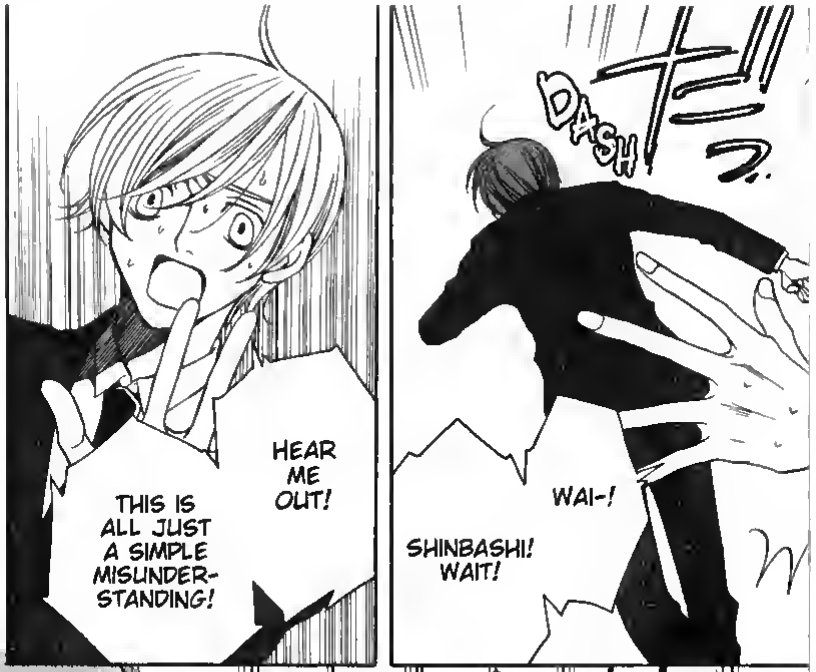
UH...
...N-NO...
I...
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST...
...SAW SOME-THING... STRANGE?
UH...
SHIN-BASHI...

I'LL TAKE HIM ON UNTIL...
I WON'T BUDGE AN INCH.
SLAM
I THINK I DID IT!
Maybe!
I WON'T LOSE!

I'M SORRY... I...
I HADN'T REALIZED THAT YOU WERE IN SUCH A DIFFICULT SITUATION, ICHIJO.
AND HERE I WAS BEING MAD AT YOU FOR NEGLECTING FUJISHIMA-SAN.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH SUCH A HEAVY SECRET, YOURSELF.
I SHOULD HAVE MINDED MY OWN BUSINESS... SORRY...
HE'S GOT THE WRONG IDEA ENTIRELY!
I can't really blame him...
SHINBASHI, WAIT JUST A SECOND!!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! THERE'RE A LOT OF REASONS BEHIND ALL THIS—
I UNDERSTAND.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING
I PROMISE I WON'T TELL ANYONE SO DON'T WORRY...

TURN <3
I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!
HE TOTALLY SAW THAT!
SHINBASHI, LET ME-
UM...

Sigh...


HEAR ME OUT!
THIS IS ALL JUST A SIMPLE MISUNDER-STANDING!
DASH!!
WAI-!
SHINBASHI! WAIT!

...IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN TELL HIM MY... PROBLEM.
I KNOW I SAID I WANTED TO EXPLAIN, BUT...
POOH
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT SHINBASHI MUST THINK OF ME RIGHT NOW...

UH... IT'S NOTH-ING...
YOU LOOK UPSET...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MASHIRO-KUN?

WAIT!
TMP
WAIT!
TMP
TMP
TMP
WAIT!!

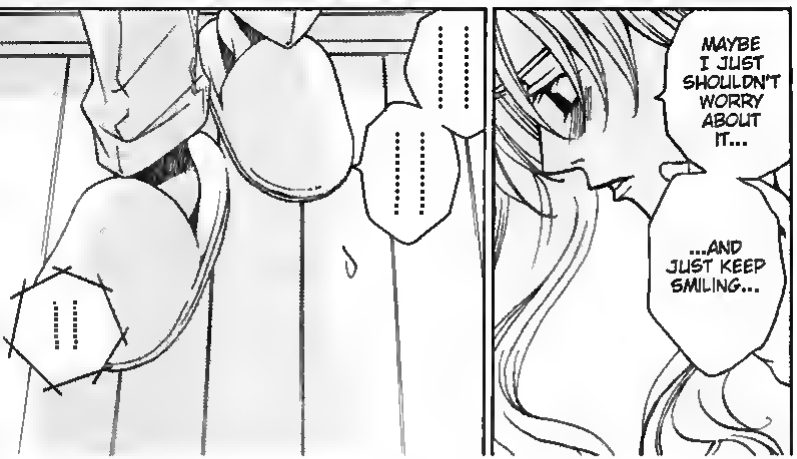
IT'S NOTHING
I WAS JUST THINK-ING ABOUT MY BORING CLASSES THIS AFTERNOON...

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO...
...EXPLAIN SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I DON'T...
...KNOW HOW TO.
I'M SURE SHINBASHI WOULD UNDERSTAND IF I DID TELL HIM...
BUT...
GASP!
OH.
YEAH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
MASHIRO-KUN, ARE YOU OKAY?
.....

ALL DAY... I WAS KIND OF STUNNED.
I APOLOGIZE, I DID SEE "SOMETHING WEIRD."
FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID.
I'VE BEEN THINKING SINCE THIS AFTERNOON.
I GUESS I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY YOU ALWAYS SEEMED SO HALF-HEARTED ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH FUJISHIMA-SAN.
BUT I THINK I FINALLY UNDER-STAND.
Uh, wait, look...
THE PROBLEM... IS WHETHER OR NOT YOU REALLY LOVE FUJISHIMA-SAN.
WHETHER OR NOT YOU ACTUALLY CARE FOR HER.
BUT... YOUR ORIENTATION IS NOT THE PROBLEM, HERE.
I REALLY LIKE KUREHA, AND I WANT TO PROTECT HER!
SHE HAS GOOD DAYS AND BAD DAYS...
...BUT I WANT TO BE THERE FOR HER NO MATTER WHAT.
I THINK I... WANT TO HOLD ONTO THIS FEELING.
BECAUSE...
...I'M A GUY...
FOR EXAMPLE... IF YOU WERE MERELY USING FUJISHIMA-SAN AS A FRONT TO HIDE YOUR CURRENT INDECISION,
I'D-
DOM
YOU'RE WRONG!
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!

I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND, SO I WON'T SAY ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT IT.
THIS IS A HUGE DECISION.
...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY.
IF YOU'RE REALLY SUFFERING THAT MUCH, THEN...
ONLY THAT...
NO ONE WOULD BLAME YOU...
STICK WITH FUJISHIMA-SAN.
I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU'D BE HAPPY WITH HIM.
HE HAS A REPUTATION WITH THE LADIES, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS INTO GUYS...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK OF SOU MIZU-HASHI.
I get the whole "you only live once" thing, but..
ONLY...
...I KNOW I'M INDECI-SIVE.
...WHICH PATH I SHOULD TAKE.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL BE ABLE TO DECIDE...
SO...
...I HAVE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS WITHIN ME.
BEFORE I CAN THINK ABOUT KUREHA OR SOU...
MY VERY SOUL IS INDECISIVE.

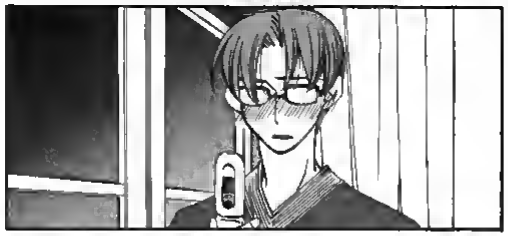
WHAT DO I DO?
BUT THERE'S NOTHING... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
IF WE HAD ARGUED, THEN WE COULD MAKE UP AND THINGS WOULD BE FINE.
NOTHING AT ALL.
WE DIDN'T FIGHT... THERE'S JUST...
I STILL... I STILL FEEL LIKE HE'S FAR AWAY, SOMEHOW...
EVEN THOUGH WE DIDN'T FIGHT...

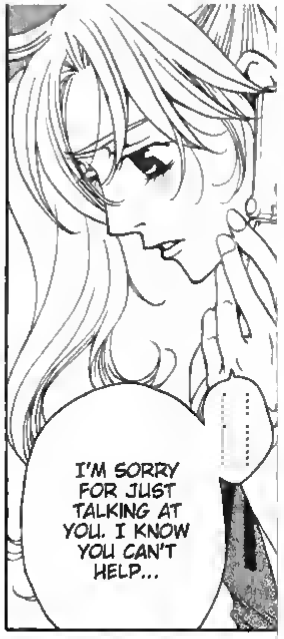

.....
.....
.....
MAYBE I JUST SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
...AND JUST KEEP SMILING...

AH! O-OF COURSE!
FUJISHIMA-SAN, HAVING YOU CALL ME? IS...WELL, GOSH...
I'M SORRY FOR JUST CALLING OUT OF THE BLUE.
IS NOW A GOOD TIME...?
I THOUGHT YOU'D MADE UP...
UM... DID YOU HAVE ANOTHER FIGHT WITH ICHIJO?
NO...
...NOTH-ING'S HAP-PENED...

TOMOR-
ROW...
WHAT WILL I TALK ABOUT?
WHAT SHOULD I ASK HIM...?

I'M HANGING UP NOW. THANKS FOR LISTENING.
GOOD NIGHT.
NO...
THAT'S...
I'M SORRY.




I'M SORRY FOR JUST TALKING AT YOU. I KNOW YOU CAN'T HELP...

The Bead Cord

When the middle bead breaks, the cord disconnects.

The bead nearest the heart is the first to break.

I thought of various designs for the bead cord so that "when the three beads break, it comes apart" but in the end I just went with this...

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO HER, IF A CHANCE COMES UP.
SHE'S AS BEAUTIFUL AS THEY COME... JUST...
I'D LIKE TO MEET YOUR SISTER.
YOU PRAISE HER SO MUCH, I BET SHE'S GORGEOUS.

I ADMIT I WANTED TO JUST SWING A SWORD AROUND, SO...
...I WAS A LITTLE BORED.
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, THEN IT'S OKAY FOR ME.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
Well, in that case,
you can be the teacher
Oh?
I've heard that before.
No way!
I was just kidding.

...IN SOME WAYS...
...SHE'S A LITTLE SCARY.
.....?
SEMPAI...
YEAH?
I MEAN, KENDO IS REALLY...
...VERY FORMAL, WITH ALL THE BOWING AND RULES AND STUFF.
WEREN'T YOU A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED WHEN YOU STARTED?
YEAH.
IT REALLY IS.

S-STAY AWAY!
...UH...
HI...

WHIRRRR
WHIRRRR
RATTLE
.....!

WHENEVER ANYTHING HAPPENS, CALL ME.
I'M SORRY...
REALLY...
...YOU CAN CALL ME.
IF YOU NEED TO...
EVEN IF IT'S NOTHING.
I'LL ALWAYS LISTEN, NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL.
I'LL ALWAYS ANSWER.

I'M SORRY...
S-SORRY...
NO.
I UNDER-STAND.
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T COME ANY CLOSER.
AND I'LL LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN.
SO DON'T WORRY.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING.
I WON'T GO NEAR YOU.

Crumple

IF IT'S SOMETHING FOR YOU...
...I'LL DO ANYTHING.

AND I WANT TO REMEMBER WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE.
LIKE I KNEW HIM JUST A LITTLE BETTER.
I FELT LIKE...
IS THIS HOW A GIRL WOULD FEEL?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I'M...
...I'M JUST... GOING TO FEEL IT.

BECAUSE I...
...TALKED TO HIM FOR A MOMENT...
...I GOT TO SEE AN EXPRESSION I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

SMOOTH
WH-WHAT IS IT!?
J-JUST A SECOND!
あたふた PANIC
あたふた PANIC
SOU!
JUMP
!!
K-CLICK

THIS IS THE REAL–
NOW KNOCK
...
YES?
.....
IT'S ME.

WHETHER MY EYES...
...ARE OPEN OR CLOSED...
....I AM STILL JUST ME.

WHY DO YOU NEED TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO SEE ME NOW?
DIDN'T YOU SEE ME ENOUGH AT SCHOOL TODAY?
WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN!?
DID YOU JUST CALL ME A PRINCESS!?
QUIT IT!
YOU STILL WANNA HEAR IT? PRINCESS.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU I LIKE YOU?

WHAT'S WITH THE PANTING?
PANT PANT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING JUST SHOWING UP UNIN-VITED!?
N...
NOTHING!
SOU!
WHAT DO YOU WANT!?
SOU! OKAY, AND NOW YOU'RE JUST COMING RIGHT IN!
.....
STRIDE
すた
STRIDE
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.

THEN JUST WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
Go out with
SORRY, IT'S JUST... "GO OUT WITH." I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT THAT WAY...
"HUH?"!?
WHAT'S WITH THAT EXPRESSION!?
HUH?
I'M A GUY. WHAT DO YOU THINK I WANT?
WHAT DO I WANT?

...DO YOU WANT?
SOU, WHAT...
WHAT?
HEY, I'M ASKING THE QUESTIONS HERE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT"?
.....
WHAT IS IT?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME, SOU?
HUH?

CAN I TOUCH YOU?
BLUSH
WH-
WHAT ...!?
Ha ha ha!
A ha ha ha!
CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

THE WHOLE "I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE" THING AGAIN?
.....
...THAT'S RIGHT.
GLARE

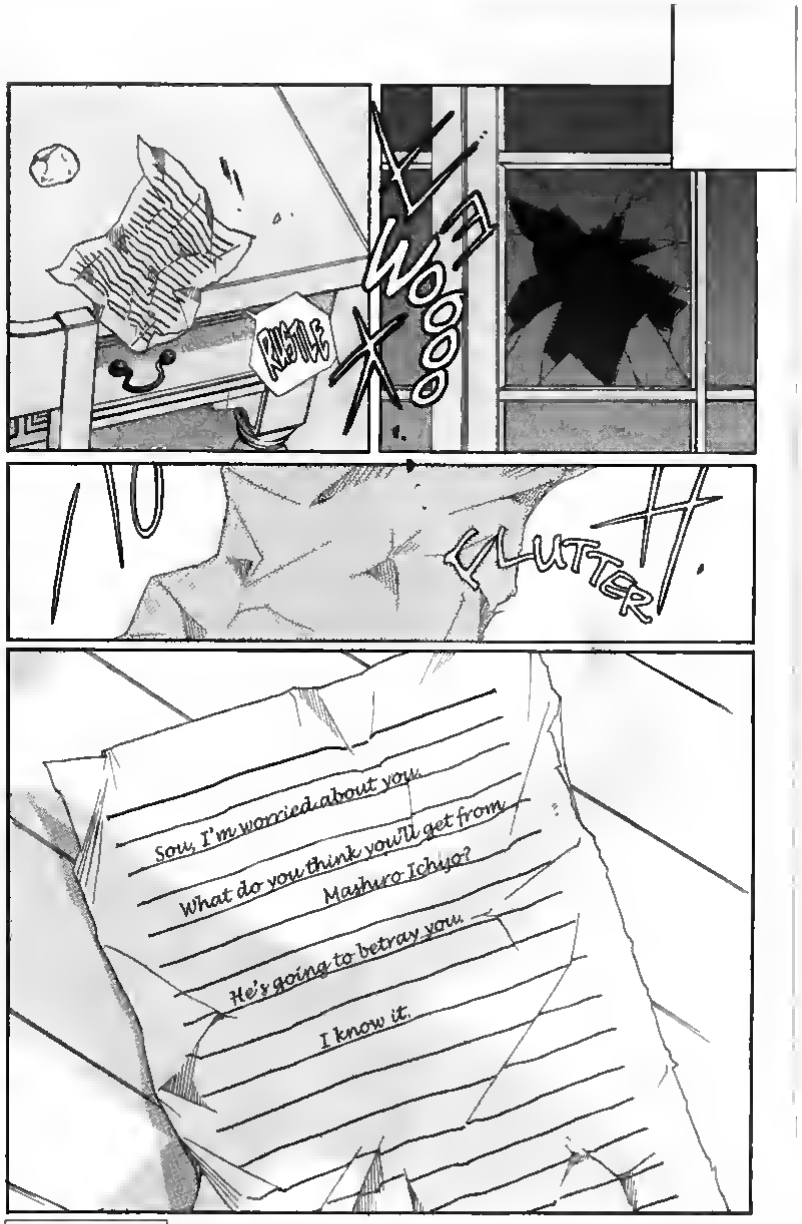
...F...
.....
I JUST FIGURED I'D ASK ANY-WAY.
I KNOW, I KNOW.
N-
NO!!
FINE. I DON'T CARE.
I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO HIDE.
I'M A GUY. GO AHEAD.
BUT ONLY...
...ON TOP.

BECAUSE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE GONNA LOSE?
WHY?
EVEN SO, THAT'S... ...ENOUGH
I WASN'T GOING TO GO ANY LOW-ER...
YOU'RE DONE.
..THAT'S ENOUGH.

BUT SUDDENLY...
...I FELT LIKE...
...BEING TOUCHED LIKE THAT...
...IS WHAT MAKES PEOPLE FEEL CLOSER.
IT'S WHAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.

I CONSIDERED GETTING MAD...
...AND TELLING HIM OFF.

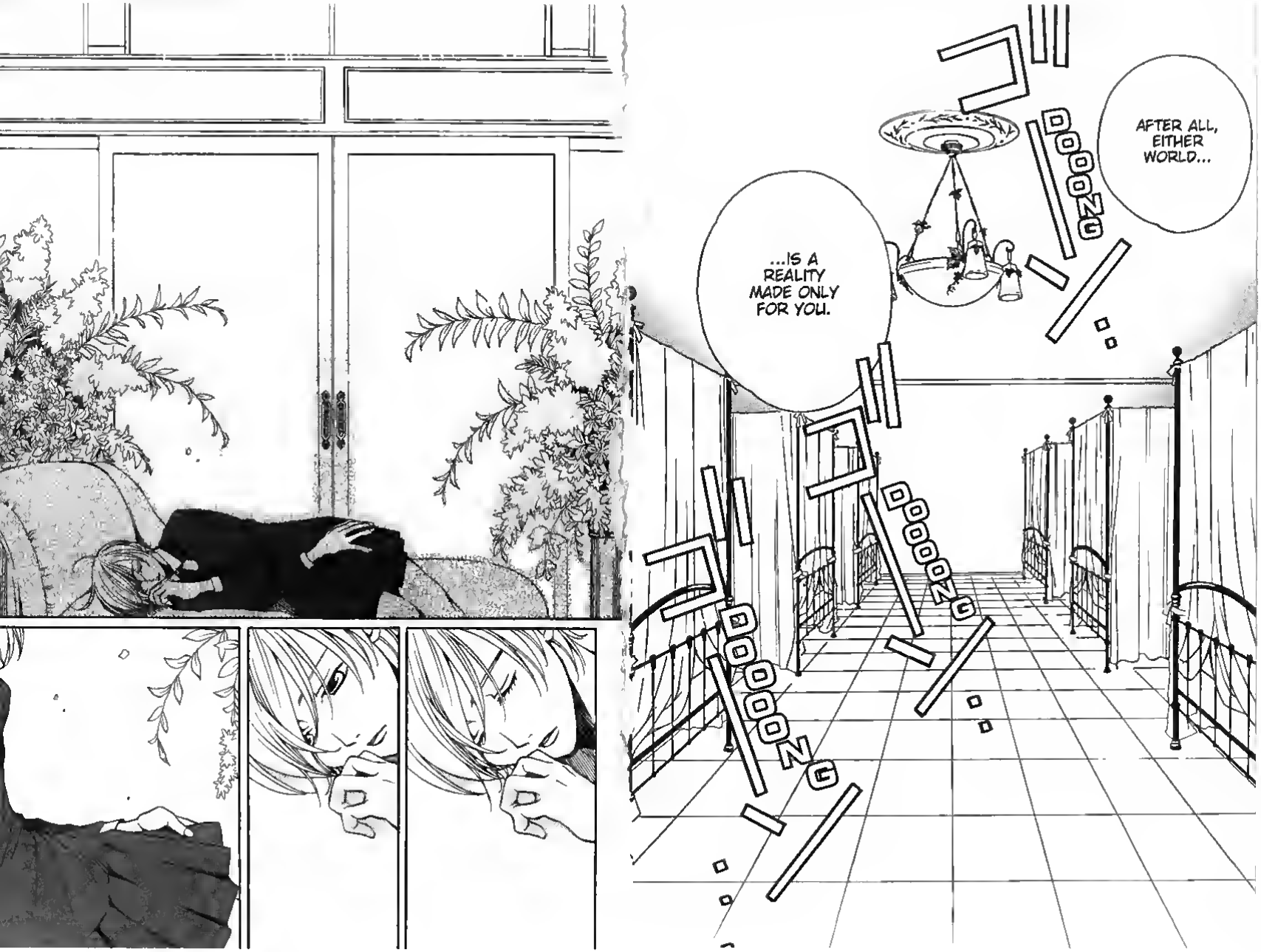
AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE Chapter 14



Chapter 13 / OVER

YOU SEEM PREOCCUPIED TODAY,
MASHIRO-KUN.
I'M LIKE THAT SOMETIMES.
SOMETIMES MY LIFE IS SO FULL OF PROBLEMS I DON'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT DREAMS.
...IS THAT SO WRONG?
IT'S NOT WRONG AT ALL.

CAN I TOUCH YOU?


AFTER ALL, EITHER WORLD...
...IS A REALITY MADE ONLY FOR YOU.
DOOONG
DOOOONG
DOOOONG

.....?
I CAN'T SEE THEIR FACES.
RUB

WHERE AM I?
.....?

IS THIS SOMEONE'S DREAM?
IS THIS...
...SOME-ONE'S HOUSE?
THE KNIGHT ...
...IS CLOSE...
RRRRRIP
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK

TOUCH
SLICE
IT WILL NOT BE DREAMED...
...BY THE LIKES OF YOU.

I WILL NOT SHOW YOU THIS DREAM.
I WON'T.
I WON'T LET YOU COME ANY CLOSER.
DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OVER?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, AI?

SPLAT
FALL
CRUMBLE
HAAH...
WHEEZE
BURST
KUH!
AH!
STOP...
LEAVE THAT CHILD...
...ALONE
CONSIDER THIS A WARNING.

WHO'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?
"THAT CHILD"...?
SLICE
SMATTER
SLICE
YOU'LL HURT THE KID. I KNOW IT.
DON'T TOY WITH MY THINGS.
UH...!
THE DECISION IS NOT YOURS TO MAKE!
DON'T GO NEAR THAT CHILD.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THE POOR THING.
IT'S ALL UP TO ME. YOU CAN'T...!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
GOOD WORK.
MASHIRO-KUN.

BURST
AAAAH!!
AAAAH!!
HUFF
HUFF

HM?
SOU...
SOU, ABOUT YOUR SISTER...
WHAT'S...
...HER NAME?

"THAT CHILD."
IT COULDN'T BE...
DON'T GO NEAR THAT CHILD.

SHE'S A WONDER-FUL GIRL.
BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT... KIND.
Ai.
...THAT KENDO WAS COOL.
'CAUSE MY SISTER SAID...
HER NAME IS...
...Ai*.
*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

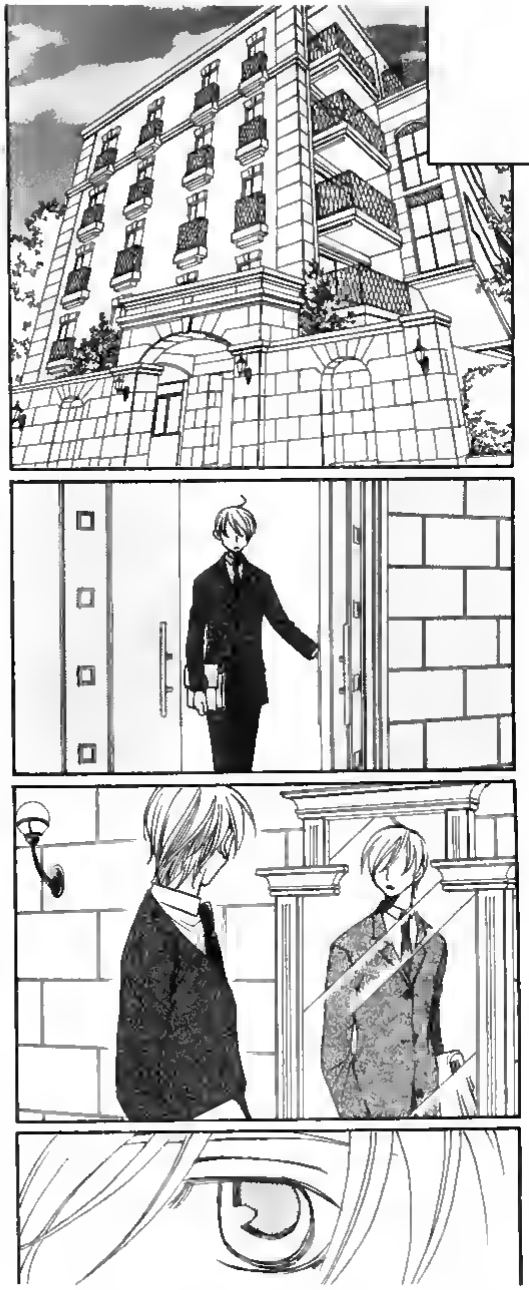
DON'T TOY WITH MY THINGS.
SOME-HOW...
...I'VE GOT A REALLY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
MY CHEST FEELS TIGHT. LIKE IT'S FULL OF DARKNESS...
IT'S HEAVY...
...AND GLOOMY...
IT HURTS...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!
WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY?

SOU'S... SISTER.
WE MET IN THE FIRST DREAM I EVER HAD. SHE KNOWS WHO I AM.
EVEN THOUGH IN THE DREAMS...
...SHE'S A CHILD, I KNEW SHE HAD TO BE A STUDENT HERE.
I HAVEN'T FOUND ANY OTHER GIRL AS GREAT AS SHE IS.
BACK THEN, SOU...
...LOOKED SO STRANGE WHEN HE TALKED ABOUT HER.

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
UH...!
I MEAN, NOW THAT I'M CLOSER...
IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION.
OH... I GUESS THAT WAS REALLY RUDE OF ME.
...YOU DON'T LOOK GIRLISH AT ALL!

I was talking to myself...
OH! OF COURSE!
CAN I SIT HERE?
AH... SHIN-BASHI.
YOU LOOK A LITTLE ODD.
...WHAT?
...LOOKED LIKE A GIRL FOR A SECOND.
...WHEN I SAW YOU SITTING THERE, YOU...
FOR SOME REA-SON...

Only Kureha wears a petticoat under her uniform It's very girlish!



AND YOU'RE POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS!
I MEAN, ASIDE FROM THE WHOLE "PRINCE OF HYPOCRISY" THING, YOU'RE REALLY VERY MASCULINE!
NOBODY WOULD EVER THINK YOU WERE GIRLY!
ACME
MY EYES WERE JUST PLAYING TRICKS ON ME. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
UM... ANY-WAY...
.....
MAYBE "YOU'RE POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS" ISN'T SOMETHING HE'D LIKE TO HEAR...
UUUH ...

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
...ICHI-JO?

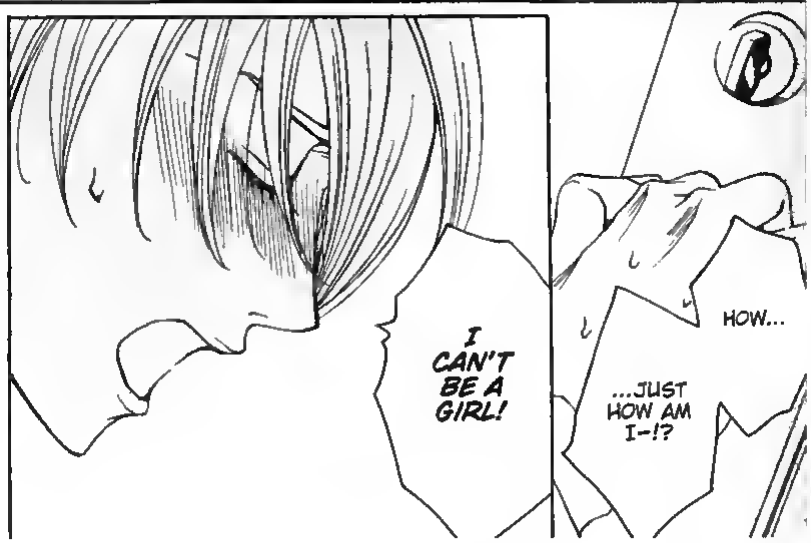
YOU DON'T LOOK GIRLISH AT ALL!
I KNEW THAT ALREADY, DIDN'T I?
EVERY-ONE THINKS THAT.
AFTER ALL, I'VE LIVED MY WHOLE LIFE AS A GUY.
HELL, EVEN I THINK THAT.
SO, WHY...!?
A GUY WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR SOMEONE SAY THAT.
THEN WHY AM I LETTING IT GET TO ME?

...HEY!
CLICK
CREAK
TMP
TMP
TMP
HEY!
WHAT GIVES!?
BAM
HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU RUNNING AWAY FOR!?
...HEY!
BASH
ICHIJO?
I'M TIRED OF THIS!
DON'T COME NEAR ME!

I'M NOT LIKE THE GIRLS AT ALL! I COULDN'T EVER BE LIKE THEM! I'M JUST TOO...
WHEN I IMAGINE MYSELF AS A GIRL, EVERYTHING JUST SEEMS SO DIFFICULT!
THINKING OF MYSELF AS A GUY...
...IS JUST SO MUCH EASIER.

SOU, YOU...
DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT!
SO YOU'RE JUST GIVING UP 'CAUSE IT'S EASY?
...SOMEONE WHO'D LOOK GOOD IN A DRESS-! BUT YOU STILL-
...WOULD PROBABLY LIKE A GIRL WITH LONG HAIR...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
RUNNING AWAY LIKE THAT IS PRACTICALLY AN INVITATION TO CHASE YOU, Y'KNOW?
THAT'S THE KIND OF THING THAT MAKES YOU SEEM SO FEMININE!


I CAN'T BE A GIRL!
HOW...
...JUST HOW AM I-!?

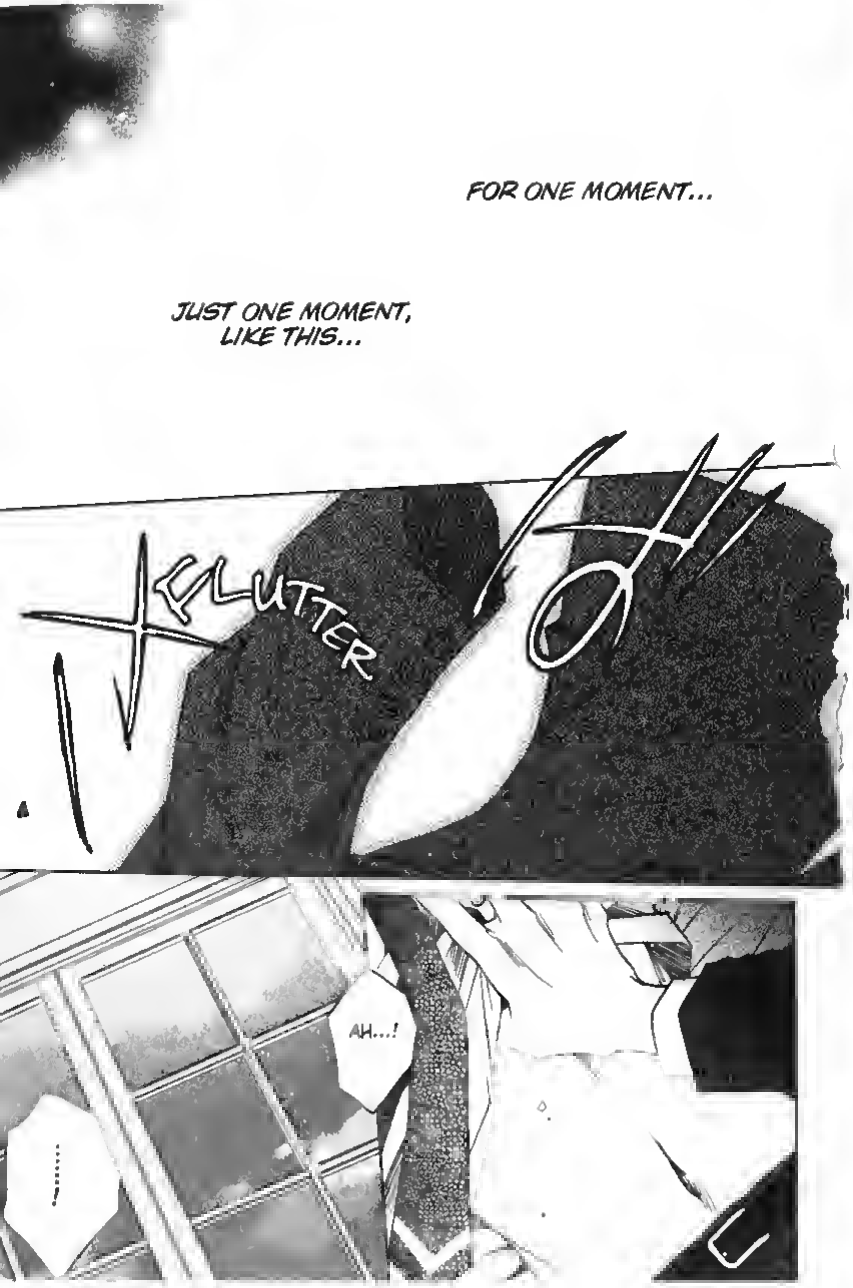
IF YOU CAN'T DECIDE...
...THEN I'LL DECIDE FOR YOU.

SHOVE
SLAM!!
THUD

IS THERE...
...ANY-THING I...
IF THERE'S ...
...ANY-THING I...
...CAN DO FOR YOU...

...I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT EVERY-ONE NEEDS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH...
...BUT...
IT'S TRUE THAT NO ONE CAN SAVE YOU BUT YOURSELF...
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE SOU.
.....
EVEN YOU, SOU...?

IF...
IF THERE'S ANY PART OF YOU AT ALL THAT WANTS TO BE A GIRL, THEN...
...LET ME...
YOU'RE JUST...
THIS ISN'T ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR ME.
I...
...NEED YOU.


FOR ONE MOMENT...
JUST ONE MOMENT, LIKE THIS...
FLUTTER
AH...!
.....

FOR JUST A MOMENT...
...I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE...
IF SOMEONE...
IF SOMEONE LIKE SOU...
...WOULD JUST CHOOSE FOR ME.
...TO LET MY MIND GO BLANK, AND LOSE MYSELF IN THE WAVES.
...HE COULD MAKE THE CHOICE FOR ME.
WHILE MY EYES WERE CLOSED...

...LET ME...
IF THERE'S ANY PART OF YOU AT ALL THAT WANTS TO BE A GIRL, THEN...
IF...
I FEEL SO WARM...
...AND I CAN'T MOVE.
CLINK

Chapter 14 / OVER

AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE Chapter 15
I CAN'T MOVE.

SHIN-BASHI!
PANIC
YOU THERE?
ICHIJO...
HE'S NOT IN?
NO...!
WAIT...! JUST A-!
BUMP!
THE DOOR'S LOCKED, IT'LL BE FINE.
NO...!
IGNORE HIM.
.....
ICHIJO?

KNOCK KNOCK

CREAK
SLAM
THERE SOMETHING YOU NEEDED?
SORRY FOR ALL THE NOISE...

TUMBLE
TUMBLE
CRASH
ARE YOU OKAY!?
...ICHIJO? YOU THERE?
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
JUST A SECOND!
RATTLE
RATTLE

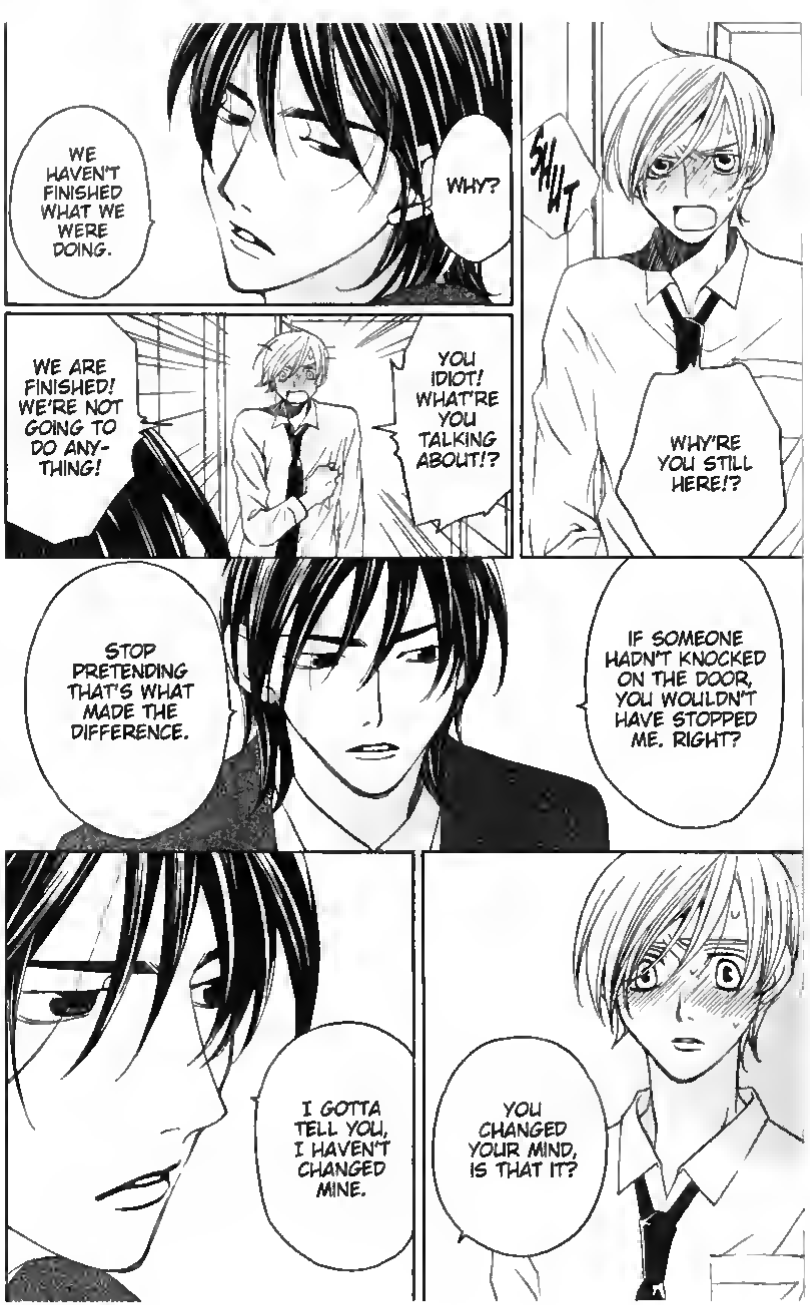
I'M SURE SHE'S WORRYING ABOUT YOU, AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING? INDULGING YOURSELF WITH MIZUHASHI!
THERE'S NOT A DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT FUJISHIMA-SAN IS THINKING ABOUT YOU RIGHT NOW!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S UNFAIR TO YOUR GIRL-FRIEND!?
YOU'RE RIGHT...
.....

PANT
PANT
.....
TURN
IT'S NOTHING.
I SEEM TO BE INTER-RUPTING. I'M SORRY.
HUH?
WAIT... UM...
.....
I WAS SURE I'D UPSET YOU IN THE CAFETERIA, SO I THOUGHT I'D COME APOLOGIZE...
BUT...
I GUESS YOU'RE ALL BETTER NOW.

CONSIDER IT FORGOTTEN.
KNOCK

YOUR SUPPOSED LOVE FOR HER WAS NOTHING MORE THAN SELF-JUSTIFICATION!
BUT SINCE IT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANTED, YOU DON'T EVEN THINK THAT IT MIGHT BE UNFAIR TO HER.
THE PRINCE OF HYPOCRISY.
WHY!?
AND YET YOU STILL LOOK STRICKEN.
...THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY
I'LL FORGET ABOUT WHAT I JUST SAW.
SHINBASHI ...!

STOP IT! YOU'RE THE ONE...!
YOU JUST GOT CARRIED AWAY, RIGHT? CAUGHT UP IN THE MOOD?
EVERYONE SAYS SO!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOMEONE JUST TO GET WHAT YOU WANT! YOU PREY ON THE WEAK!
FOR A MOMENT YOU SEEMED TO LET ME IN, SO I WANTED TO MAKE YOU MINE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I WANTED TO TAKE AWAY YOUR WEAKNESS FOR YOU.


WE HAVEN'T FINISHED WHAT WE WERE DOING.
WHY?
SHUT
WE ARE FINISHED! WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANY-THING!
YOU IDIOT! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
WHY'RE YOU STILL HERE!?
STOP PRETENDING THAT'S WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE.
IF SOMEONE HADN'T KNOCKED ON THE DOOR, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED ME. RIGHT?
I GOTTA TELL YOU, I HAVEN'T CHANGED MINE.
YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND, IS THAT IT?

BUT SINCE IT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANTED, YOU DON'T EVEN THINK THAT IT MIGHT BE UNFAIR TO HER.
YOUR SUPPOSED LOVE FOR HER WAS NOTHING MORE THAN SELF-JUSTIFICATION!
AND YET YOU STILL LOOK STRICKEN.
WHY!?
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, SOU! IT WAS MINE!!
THIS WAS BECAUSE OF ME!
I KNOW!

YOU'RE NOT WRONG.
GO AHEAD AND SAY IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
AND LOCK THE DOOR BEHIND YOU.
COME HERE.

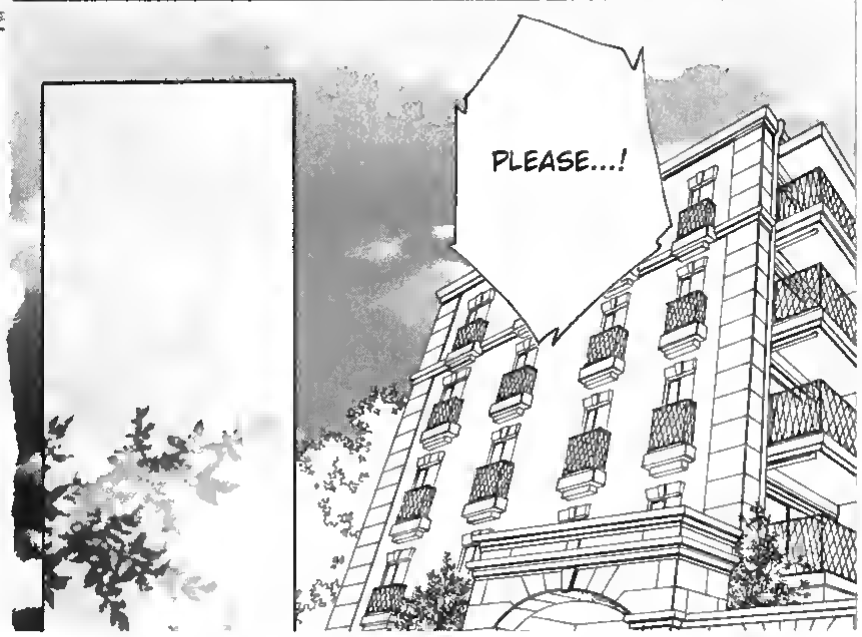
...SO THEN...
...AND SHE SAID... IS IT.
...IT'S... YOU KNOW?
MASHIRO-KUN, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
!!!!!

AH... YOU KNOW, I REALLY DIDN'T SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT, SO I'M A LITTLE TIRED TODAY... AND...
Sorry Sorry!

YOU JUST KEEP ZONING OUT LATELY. YOU NEVER LISTEN TO ME ANYMORE!
AH! I'M SORRY...
HELLO-OO! MASHIRO-KUN, CAN YOU HEAR ME!?
SORRY... UH...

JUST STOP TALKING.
PLEASE.

GET OUT...!


PLEASE...!

I'M SORRY FOR CALLING...
UM... I WAS JUST... WORRIED
SO I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'RE REALLY OKAY...
FUJISHIMA-SAN... WHEN I SEE YOU WITH ICHIJO, I...
...CAN'T HELP BUT THINK YOUR SMILES LOOK FORCED.
THEY LOOK FORCED ...?

OH... LET ME THINK...
HMMM... ANYTHING. I LIKE EVERYTHING!
YOU CAN'T SAY "ANY-THING!"
SO, TELL ME WHAT YOU'D LIKE! ♡
OKAY, LISTEN, A BUNCH OF US ASKED IF WE COULD USE THE KITCHEN TO MAKE OBENTO*! I'M GOING TO MAKE ONE FOR YOU, MASHIRO-KUN!
*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES
UH... UM...
JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT ON IT!
AND YOU CAN'T JUST SAY "ANYTHING" AGAIN!
You sure?
Come on!
FINE, I'LL MAKE A CROISSANT SANDWICH!

I'M SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU WITH TRIVIAL THOUGHTS.
I KNOW YOU'RE DOING THE BEST YOU CAN, FUJISHIMA-SAN...
...AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO.
I'M SURE... IT'LL WORK OUT.
...YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
SHIN-BASHI.
THANKS.
NO.
IT'S OKAY.

WELL... THEY ARE.
I'M TRYING SO HARD.
THAT'S ALL I CAN DO. I'M TRYING MY BEST.
I'M SURE HE... PREFERS THAT...
THE BEST I CAN DO IS JUST SMILE.
I CAN'T CRY OR GET UPSET...
IF I KEEP SMILING FOR HIM...
...I'M SURE ONE DAY...

I'M SO SELFISH.
EVEN THOUGH HE HASN'T NOTICED...
...DEEP DOWN, I STILL WANT HIM TO.
THAT'S WHY MASHIRO-KUN WILL NEVER REALLY LIKE ME.
BECAUSE I'M SUCH A DEMANDING, SELFISH GIRL.
JUST KNOWING THAT SOMEONE NOTICED...
...MAKES ME FEEL LIKE IT'S ALL WORTH IT.
...IT'S NOT THAT I WANT MASHIRO-KUN TO SEE ME SMILING.
THE TRUTH IS...
THE THING ABOUT ME...
THE TRUTH IS, I WANT HIM...
...TO SEE HOW HARD I'VE BEEN TRYING TO SMILE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
YOU'RE NOT DEMANDING OR SELFISH OR ANYTHING!
FUJISHIMA-SAN, YOU'RE NOT BAD! NOT AT ALL!
THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T JUST BE A PRETTY DOLL IS PROOF THAT YOU REALLY DO LOVE HIM!
AND BECAUSE YOU WANT HIM TO LOVE YOU, YOU'LL DO WHATEVER YOU CAN!
YOU LOVE HIM, SO YOU CAN'T HELP IT.

*This is the earlier design of the bead cord. The middle bead was supported by metal fixtures modeled after cherry blossoms, because of the "graduation" theme..**

For some reason, that felt too Japanese, so I scrapped the idea. but the real reason was because I started thinking "this is gonna be a pain to have to draw in every panel."

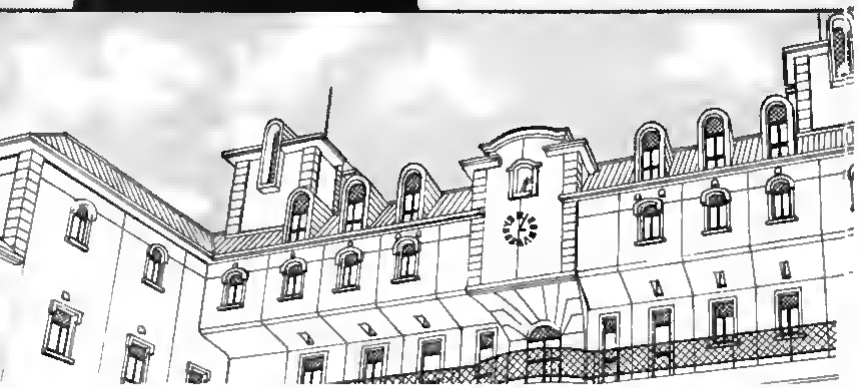
*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

TURN
BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS WAVERING...
...I'M HURTING BOTH KUREHA AND SOU.
WHAT AM I DOING?

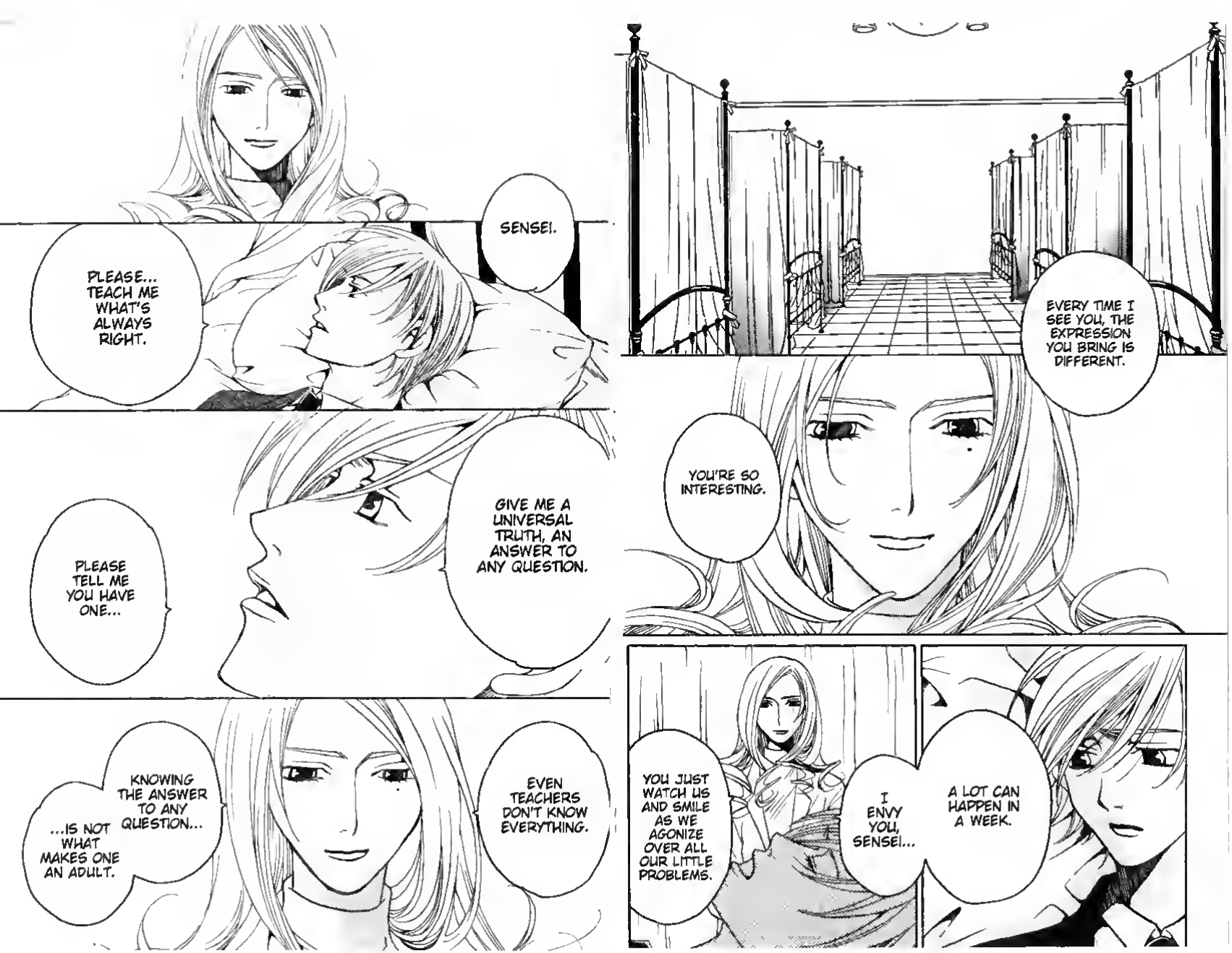
COME ON, LET'S GO!
NO, NO!
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
KUREHA, WE TOLD YOU IT'D BE FINE.
THERE'S A GROUP PRESENTATION IN CLASS, AND WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT IT FIRST...
ACTUALLY... I ALREADY HAVE PLANS WITH EVERY-ONE TODAY.

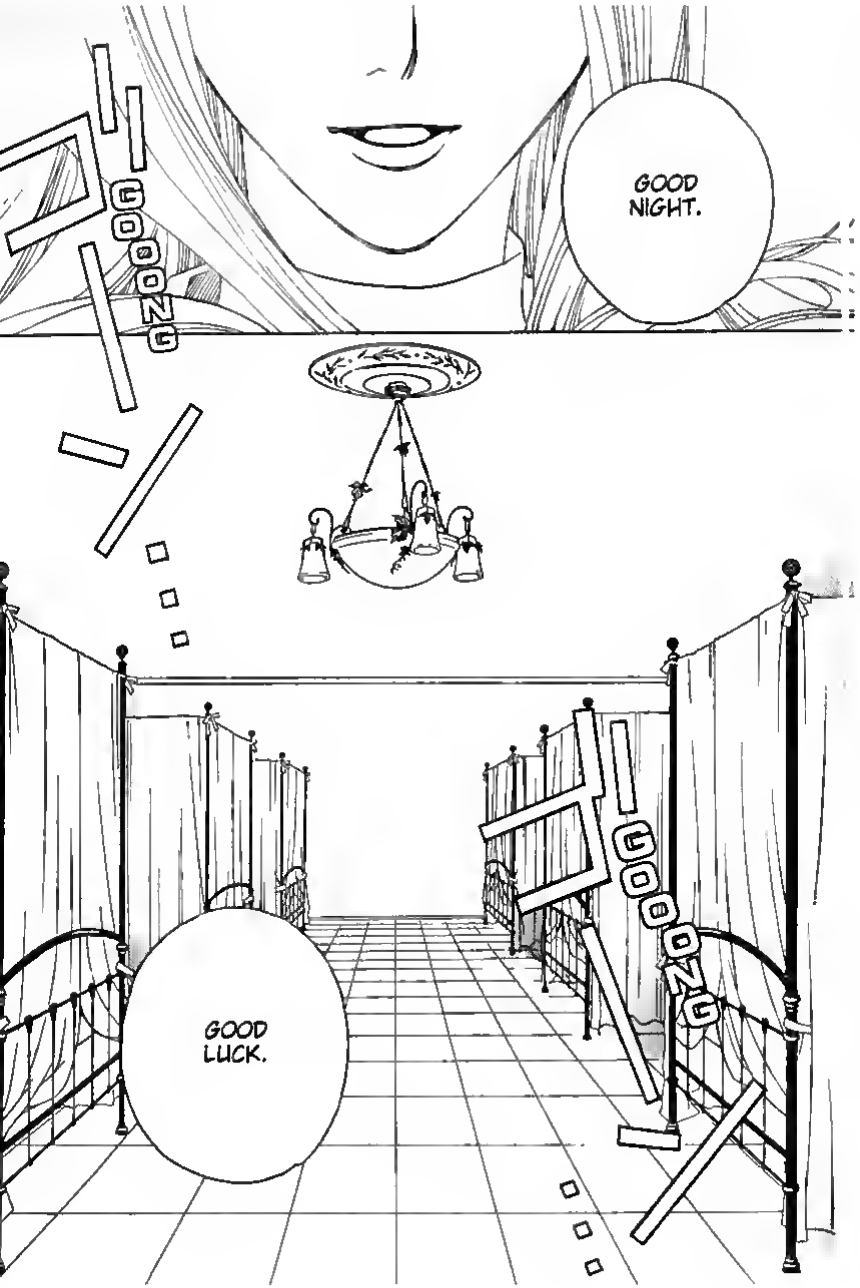
DOOOONG
DOONG
KAZUYUKI SHINBASHI-KUN.
ICHIJO...
YES?

IF I DON'T MAKE A CHOICE SOON, I'LL LOSE THEM BOTH.
I KNOW THAT. I KNOW, BUT...
WHY CAN'T I JUST CHOOSE?



I HAVE SOMETHING OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT.
WOULD YOU COME WITH ME TO THE INFIRMARY?
.....?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
...YES, MA'AM.
COME.
THIS WAY.


SENSEI.
PLEASE... TEACH ME WHAT'S ALWAYS RIGHT.
GIVE ME A UNIVERSAL TRUTH, AN ANSWER TO ANY QUESTION.
PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVE ONE...
EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, THE EXPRESSION YOU BRING IS DIFFERENT.
YOU'RE SO INTERESTING.
EVEN TEACHERS DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING.
KNOWING THE ANSWER TO ANY QUESTION...
...IS NOT WHAT MAKES ONE AN ADULT.
YOU JUST WATCH US AND SMILE AS WE AGONIZE OVER ALL OUR LITTLE PROBLEMS.
I ENVY YOU, SENSEI...
A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN A WEEK.


GOOD NIGHT.
GOOONG
GOOONG
GOOD LUCK.

EVERY DAY IS SO EXHAUST-ING...
...AND IT FEELS LIKE TIME GOES ON FOREVER.
A LOT'S HAPPENED...
...AND NOW MY HEAD AND HEART ARE ALL CON-FUSED.
...THE END WILL COME.
IN SOME FORM OR OTHER...
GOOOONG
BUT IT WON'T LAST AS LONG AS YOU THINK.
THAT'S WHAT SCHOOL IS ALL ABOUT.

VVVRRRR
VVRRRR
VVRRRR
VVRRRR
...KUREHA'S SEAT.
THAT'S...
MY CELL PHONE... WHY...?

WHO IS THIS...!?
FUJISHIMA-SAN... SHE'S ON THE FIRST FLOOR.
ICHIJO.
GO TO HER...

VVRRRR
VVRRRR
VVRRRR
VVRRRR
HELLO...?
BEEP

COME OUT...!
WHERE ARE YOU, SHINBASHI!?
.....
.....
I...
...AM...

SHIN-BASHI!
WHY...?
HOW ...!?
SHIN-BASHI...
YOU'RE IN THE DREAM!?
IT CAN'T BE!
YOU'RE A DREAMER, TOO!? ALL THIS TIME!?
NO...
ICHIJO...

HUMAN...
...WARMTH ...!
ICHIJO...
...FUJISHIMA-SAN...
PLEASE SAVE...

EE...!
BURST
GLATTER

SHIN-
BASHI!
THIS
IS SHIN-
BASHI'S
FORM!

SHIN-
BASHI!
THIS
IS SHIN-
BASHI'S
FORM!

PLEASE SAVE...

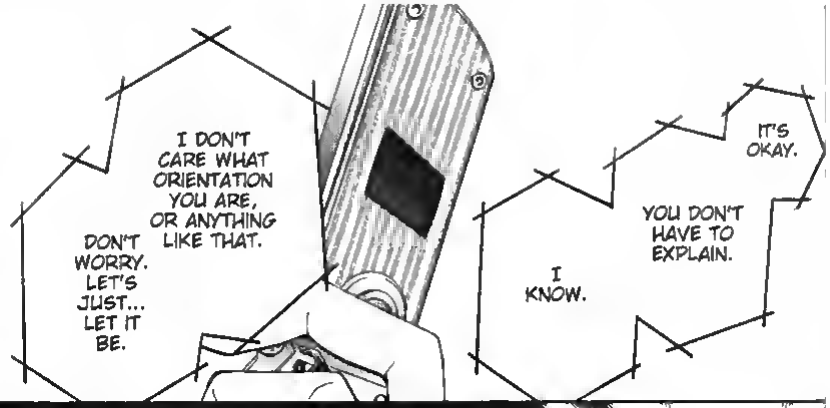
...FUJISHIMA-SAN.

I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT YOU ARE, ICHIJO...
I AM WHAT I AM...
...BUT...
THIS IS...
UH...
OH!
I... IT'S REALLY A LONG STORY, SO...
LOOK, I JUST... THE TRUTH IS, I...
BLUSH

S...
SORRY... SHINBASHI...
I WAS SUR-PRISED...
...I DROPPED...
I'M SORRY...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AH, WELL... I CAN'T BLAME YOU.
I THINK I WAS MORE UPSET BY THAT SCREECH YOU LET OUT...
IT'S OKAY.
IT DIDN'T REALLY HURT.

AH, THE POWER OF LOVE...
BUT, SHINBASHI...
I JUST KNEW WHERE SHE WAS.
SINCE I FIRST BECAME AWARE, I COULD FEEL HER.
...I KNOW SHE'S THERE.
I CAN'T SEE HER, NO... BUT...
CAN YOU SEE HER, SHINBASHI?

TMP
I THINK I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.
I'LL BE OKAY.
I BET SHE'S SMALL...
...AND SAD...
...BUT FIERY AND AGGRESSIVE...
...AND FRIGHTENED AND INNOCENT. THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
UM...
THE FORM KUREHA TAKES HERE...
...MIGHT BE SORT OF SURPRISING FOR YOU.
YOU SHOULD...
...BE AWARE THAT SHE'S...


DON'T WORRY. LET'S JUST... LET IT BE.
I DON'T CARE WHAT ORIENTATION YOU ARE, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
I KNOW.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN.
IT'S OKAY.

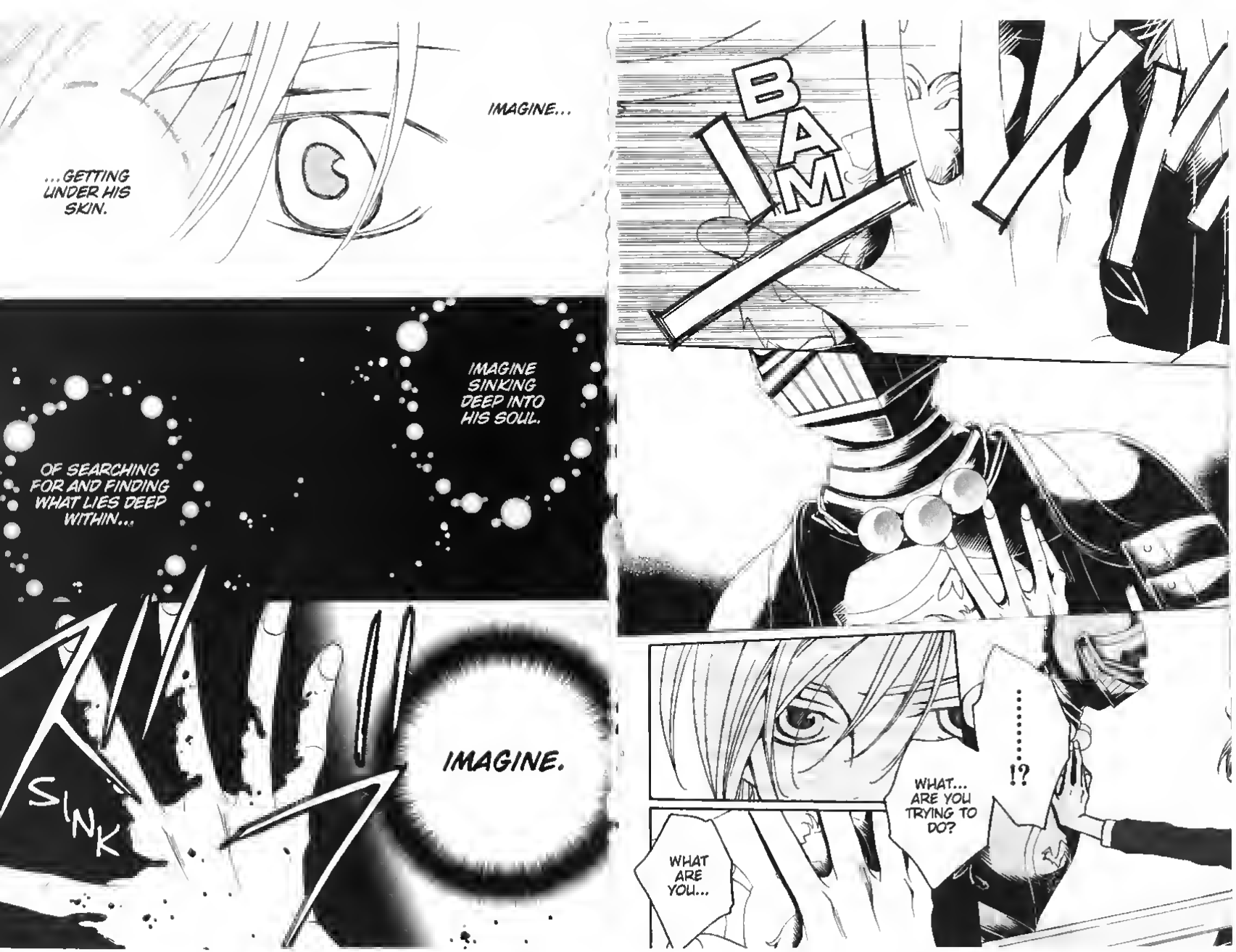
PLEASE SAVE FUJISHIMA-SAN.
SHE'S ON THE FIRST FLOOR, AND... SHE'S IN DANGER.
NO, LISTEN...!
UM...!
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT, ICHIJO.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, BUT LET ME EXPLAIN!

...GOT IT.
LET'S GO.
I THINK IT WOULD BE FASTER IF WE TOOK THE STAIRCASE... THAT WAY...
AH, WAIT... SHE'S MOVING.
KUREHA!

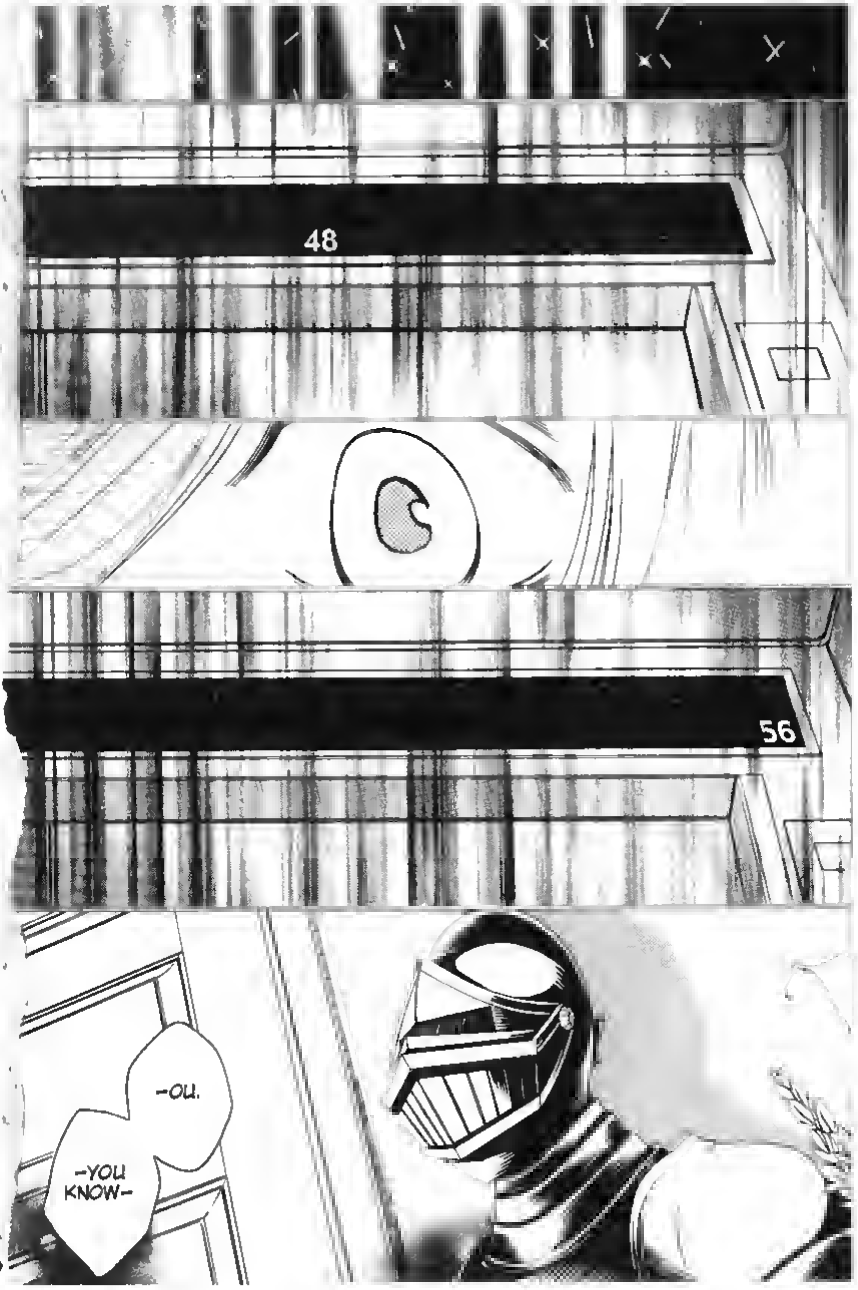
WHOOSH
I'M SORRY...
FUJISHIMA-SAN IS REALLY THE ONLY ONE I WAS THINKING ABOUT...
CLAAANG!
CLANK
CLACK
KUH...!
!
UWAH! A KNIGHT!
YOU KNEW WHERE KUREHA WAS, BUT YOU DIDN'T SENSE HIM AT ALL!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "A KNIGHT!"?

JUST FIGHTING RECKLESSLY AND CARELESSLY...
...IS NOT THE WAY TO WIN.
I THINK NOW...
...I KNOW A DIFFERENT WAY.

WHOOSH
I ALWAYS ENJOY KILLING YOU AFTER WE'VE HAD A GOOD FIGHT.
...LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO.
YOU SHOULD BRING OUT YOUR SWORD...


IMAGINE...
...GETTING UNDER HIS SKIN.
IMAGINE SINKING DEEP INTO HIS SOUL.
OF SEARCHING FOR AND FINDING WHAT LIES DEEP WITHIN...
SINK
IMAGINE.
BAM
WHAT... ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
.....!?
WHAT ARE YOU...

YOU SHOULD DO AS YOU'RE TOLD.
--SAN IS RIGHT. YOU SHOULD LISTEN...
DO AS YOU'RE TOLD....
CRACK
STOP IT!!
BURST
DON'T LOOK! STOP IT! DON'T LOOK!!
GRAB


48
56
-ou.
-YOU KNOW-

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON BUT...
...YOU'RE STRONG, ICHIJO.
NO, I'M NOT.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, EITHER...
ANYWAY, FUJISHIMA-SAN...
...IS BY THE ENTRANCE.
I THINK SHE'S BEEN CORNERED...
LET'S HURRY.
I'M SORRY, SHINBASHI... ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.
!!!!
SPLIT
SLICE
Crumble

YANK
PULL
STAB
STAB
CRACK
SSSHEET
HUFF
HUFF
SHOOSH
!!
NN...!
!!
WRITHE
PLUNGE
KUH!
NN...!!

THE KEY...!!
!!!!!
MASHI-RO...
...-KUN.
DON'T GO!
PLEASE DON'T GO!
NO...!
FSH...
CLANK
HUFF
HUFF
KUREHA!
ARE YOU OKAY!?
KUREHA...!

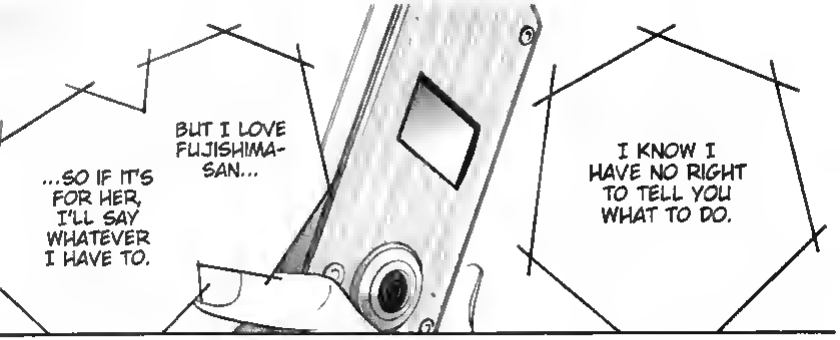
I...
WHY...
SSHF
NO...
WHAT IS THIS!?
WHY...!?
WHOOSH
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!
SQUEEZE
NO! I DON'T WANT THIS!
KUREHA!
THIS FORM ...!
WHY!?
CALM DOWN, KUREHA...!
I'M OKAY! YOU'RE NOT HURTING ME!
GRIP
ZOOOO!!

BURST
PLEASE!
.....!
CREAK
WHA...!
... BRANCHES !?
TREE...
SQUEEZE
WRAP

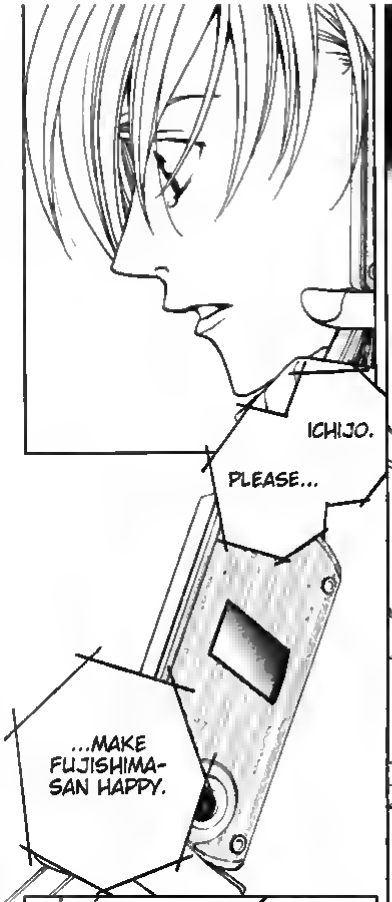
PLEASE DON'T PICK IT UP!
MASHIRO-KUN...
...DON'T LEAVE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU, MASHIRO-KUN! I DON'T WANT TO GO!
NO...! I DON'T NEED IT!
KURE-HA...
THE KEY.
YOU FOUND IT, DIDN'T YOU, KUREHA?
PLEASE...!
PLEASE.
KUREHA ...
...ICHIJO.
...WON'T GRADUATING...
...EASE HER PAIN?
...IF SHE'S SUFFER-ING THIS BADLY...
BUT...
...KUREHA ...!

...TALK TO KUREHA...
...ONE LAST TIME.
IF YOU'RE GOING SHIN-BASHI...
...THEN ...
BUT...
I CAN'T.
I PROMISED HER I WOULDN'T COME NEAR HER.
JUST BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T KNOW IT'S ME...
JUST BECAUSE THIS IS A DREAM... DOESN'T MEAN I CAN BREAK MY PROMISE.
...SHE DOESN'T NEED MY WORDS.
AND...

I'LL...
...PICK UP THE KEY.
YOU WON'T SEE KUREHA ...!
I KNOW.
IF YOU GRADUATE, WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN!
DO... DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
I... HAVE NO REASON TO STAY HERE.
SO I'LL GO.
BUT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GO.
AND SHE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO LEAVE.
I'LL LEAVE.
I'LL GO.


...SO IF IT'S FOR HER, I'LL SAY WHATEVER I HAVE TO.
BUT I LOVE FUJISHIMA-SAN...
I KNOW I HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL YOU WHAT TO DO.

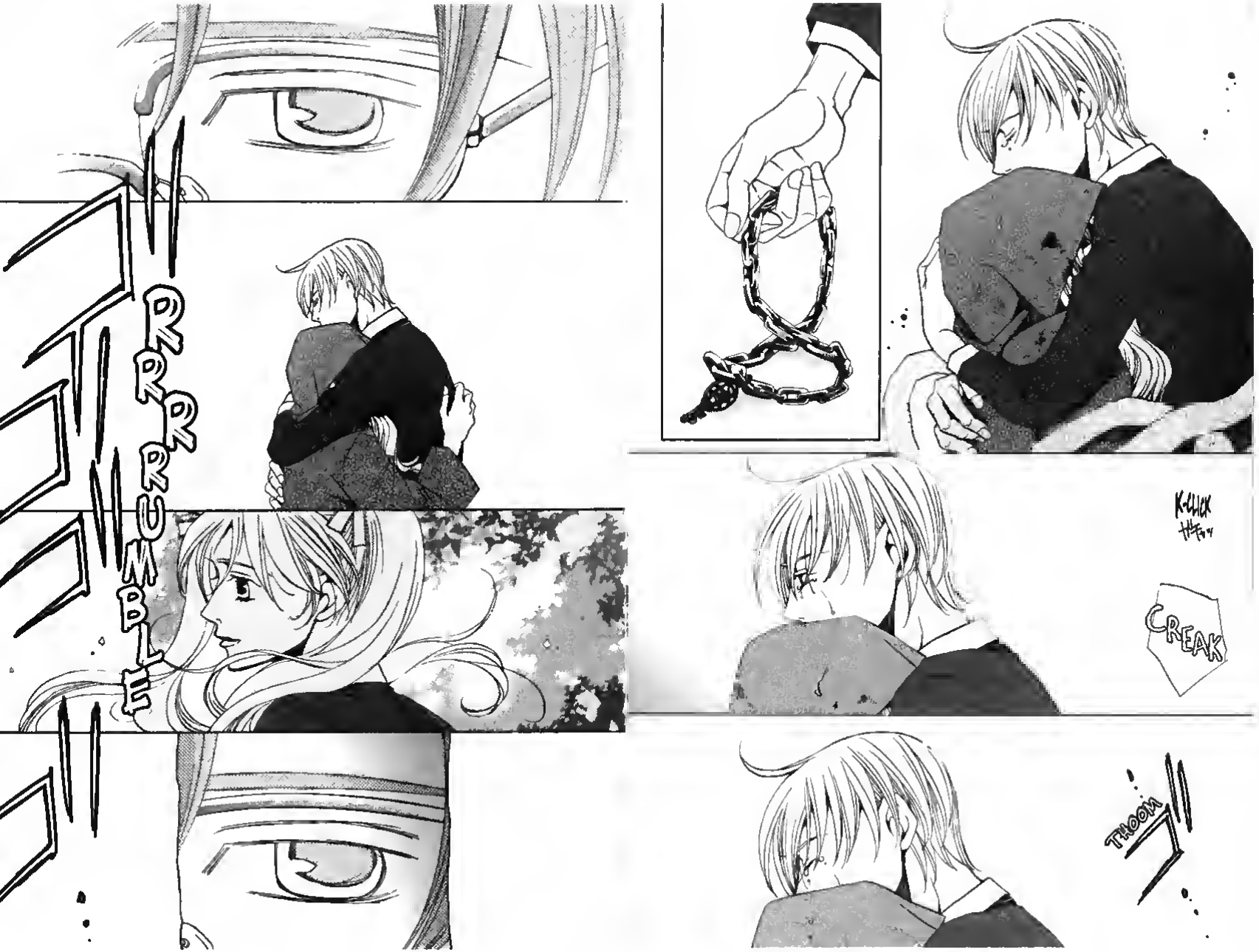
ICHIJO.
IF YOU'RE STILL CONFLICTED, JUST CHOOSE HER.
IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE YOU, SHE WON'T HAVE ANYONE.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE PRINCE OF HYPOCRISY.
EVEN IF YOU'RE CONFUSED...
...JUST SAVE HER.

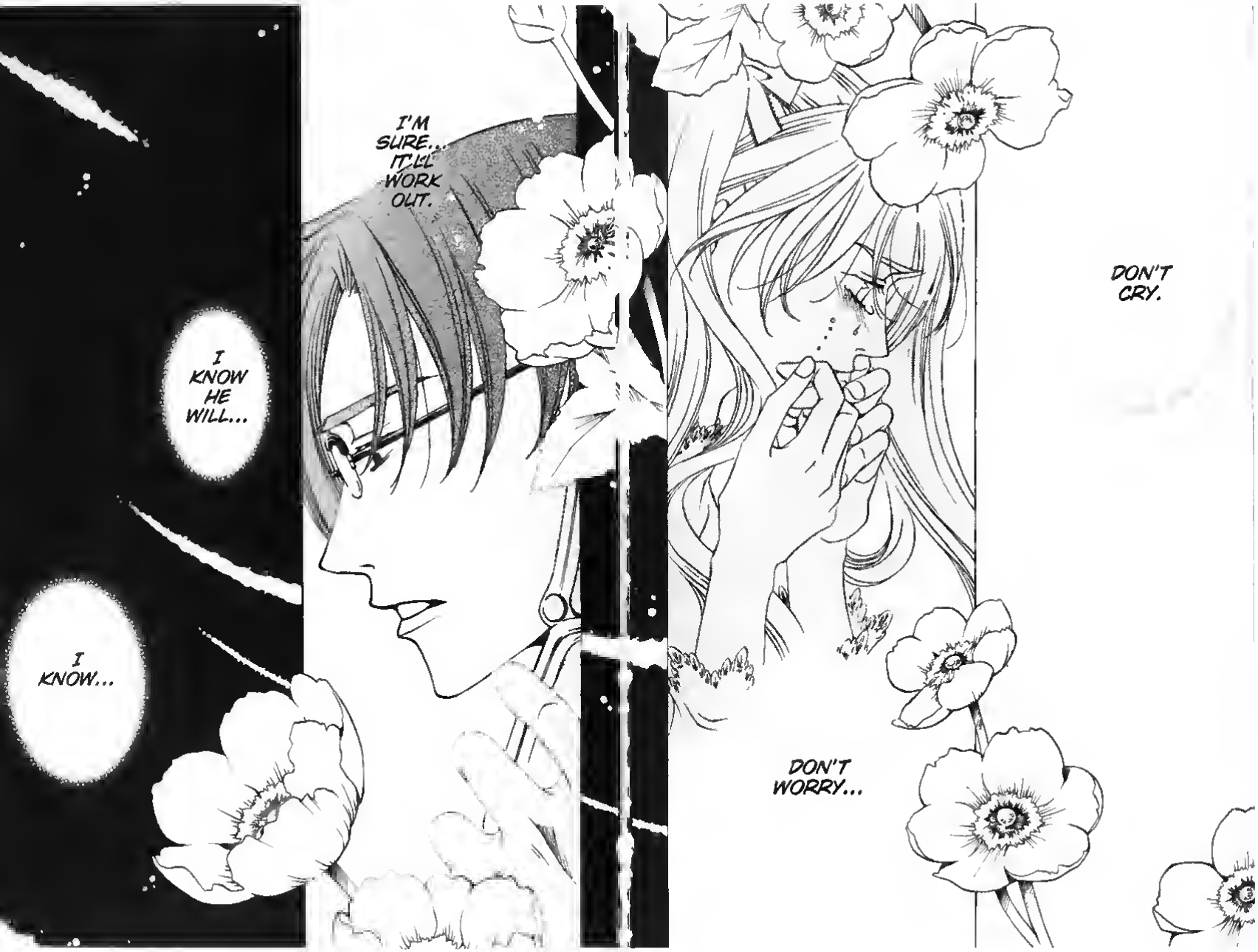

ICHIJO.
PLEASE...
...MAKE FUJISHIMA-SAN HAPPY.

DON'T HURT HER LIKE THIS.

SHE NEEDS YOU.
SHE NEEDS YOU, ICHIJO.
JUST YOU.

TELL HER YOU WON'T LEAVE.
EMBRACE HER.
PLEASE.
THINK OF IT...
...AS MY LAST REQUEST.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.
GOODBYE, ICHIJO.
CREAK
I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE.
I'M RIGHT HERE.
KURE-HA...
IT'S OKAY.
NOW...
GO TO HER.


RRRR


I'M SURE... IT'LL WORK OUT.
I KNOW HE WILL...
I KNOW...
DON'T CRY.
DON'T WORRY...

DOOONG
DOOONG
DOOONG
DOOONG
...MASHIRO-KUN?
GOOD MORNING, MASHIRO-KUN.
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY GRADUATED.
GOOD WORK TODAY.

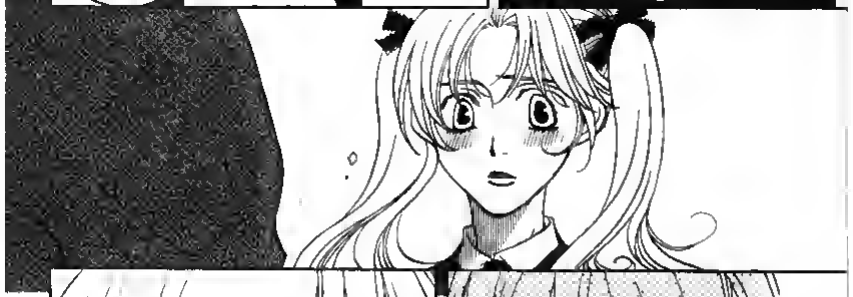
MASHIRO-KUN.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOUR EYES ARE ALL RED.
Like a bunny...
YEAH... FOR SOME REASON...
...I DUNNO...
I WOKE UP CRYING... AND THOUGH I'M SURE I KNEW WHY...
...NOW THAT I'M AWAKE, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHY I WAS SAD.
DREAMS ARE LIKE THAT.
YEAH...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M SORRY ABOUT TODAY.
SOMEHOW... I GOT ALL WEIRD AGAIN.
...AND WHAT I DID TO YOU, MASHIRO-KUN...

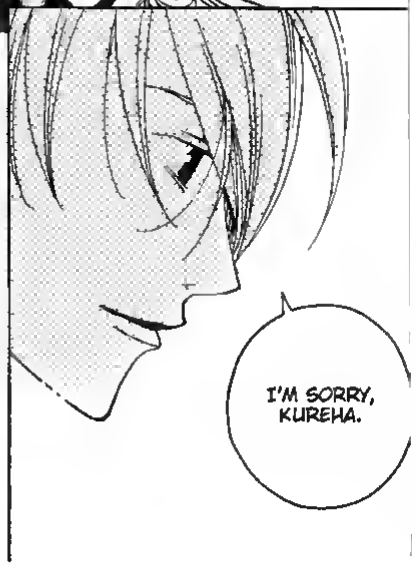
All the characters in this story have colorful names *

They don't necessarily all have significant meanings behind them, but since I started by naming the three main characters that, I've made sure to continue naming all the other characters that way, too.

I think all the colorful names are elegant and carry some connotations to them, so I'm really very pleased with it

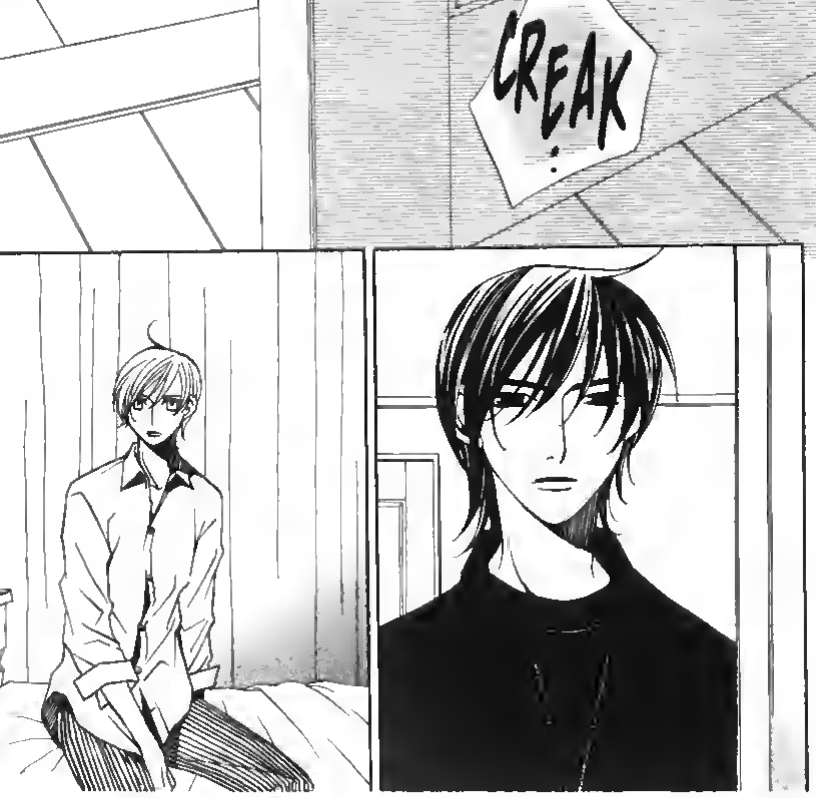
*SEE TRANSLATOR S NOTES





WHAT IS THIS?
THIS FEELS ODD.

DID I ALWAYS EAT BY MYSELF LIKE THIS?
HUH... IT SURE IS QUIET.



LIKE SOMEBODY GAVE ME A PATH TO FOLLOW.

IS THAT ALL YOU WANTED TO SAY?
IF THAT WAS IT, THEN YOU CAN LEAVE NOW.
.....
OKAY.
QUITE A DIFFERENCE FROM HOW YOU'VE BEEN LATELY.
THAT'S A CONFIDENT AND INDIFFERENT ATTITUDE.

YOU SEEMED A LITTLE OFF, SO...
IT'S JUST...
NO...
.....
.....
...I THOUGHT MAYBE SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED.
DID YOU WANT SOMETHING?
NO...
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK, SOU...
...OR WHAT YOU SAY...
...I'M A GUY.
THAT'S WHY...
...I WILL NEVER FALL FOR YOU.
I REALLY DON'T GET GIRLS.
PLEASE DON'T...
...TALK ABOUT ME LIKE THAT AGAIN.
I'M NOT A GIRL.

Coming Soon...

In The Next Volume of
AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

Chapter 16 / OVER

After School Nightmare 4 / OVER

Translator's Notes:

Pg. 72 – Ai
Going along with the theme of colors in the names of the characters in this series, Sou's sister's name, Ai, means "indigo." 藍

Pg. 112 – *obento*
A boxed meal quite similar to a boxed lunch.

Pg. 119 – cherry blossoms and graduating
The Japanese school year ends in late February or early March and so come into the new year of school in April in the Spring when the cherry blossoms are in full-bloom. The graduation from junior high into high school is the most highly anticipated shift and the vivid connection between graduation and approaching cherry blossoms is memorable in the way that one's Sweet Sixteen birthday is in the States.

Pg. 179 – colors and names
Since the cast of characters from volume 1 of this series was introduced, new characters have shown up whose names have not yet been explained.
新橋 Shinbashi, Mashiro's good friend, is a very traditional color not realized by many this day to mean a dark to medium turquoise.
東雲 Itsuki Shinonome's color meaning rests in his last name. Broken down it means "eastern clouds" and is associated with the dawn. It is a light salmon color.
黒崎 Kurosaki-sempai, the head of the Judo club, contains the color black in his name
黄川田 Even "Aimi Kikawada" which is mentioned only briefly in passing in volume three, possesses the color yellow in her last name.

AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

THIS DREAM DRAWS BLOOD...

With a growing obsession to learn the other students' identities in the dream class, and the persistent Knight at his back, Mashiro strikes a deal with a fellow classmate that could end his relationship with Kureha! Back in the real world, the tension between Mashiro and Sou escalates to the breaking point as Mashiro finally decides to face his fears...

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